

Navin Paneeri

**STORIES FROM THE LIFE OF
GURU ANGAD DEV**



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Navin Paneeri Guru Angad Dev

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Guru Angad Dev

Guru Nanak Dev before leaving for the heavens gave the Guru-seat to Guru Angad Dev and he became the second Guru of the Sikh religion. He was born to Baba Pharu Mal and Mata Daya Kaur at Mate-di-sarai, which is also known as Naga-serai. This town exists on the Muktsar-Kotkapura road about 10 kilometers from Muktsar. Many a times it was looted and destroyed by invaders from another country. Guru Angad Dev's father Baba Pharu Mal owned a shop here. He also did accountancy for Chaudhri Takht Mal and the local Pathan ruler of Ferozepur. Around 1519 when Mughal Emperor Babar came from Kabul and invaded our country, Naga-serai was destroyed.

Now Baba Pharu Mal, father of Guru Angad Dev took his family first to Hari-ke-Patan, then to Sanghar and finally settled at Khadur Sahib.



Childhood

Guru Angad Dev's original name was Lehna. Being the only son of his parents, he was a darling of the family. Bhai Lehna's mother, Mata Daya Kaur was a very religious lady. She used to recite good stories to her son Lehna everyday.

Bhai Lehna's father Baba Pharu Mal knew Persian very well. That was the prevalent language at that time. He had knowledge of other languages as well.

He had made very good arrangement for teaching and education of his son Lehna. Along with the Persian language, Lehna also became a scholar of Punjabi language.

Many stories are prevalent about his childhood.

Many times he gave away his books to poor and needy children.

He used to bring the sadhus and saints who came to or passed through Khadur Sahib to his house and served them food with eagerness.

Bhai Lehna's parents felt delighted to see his good habits.

He never got tired in serving. When he grew older, he started helping his father in his work. He had great respect for his parents.

People in Khadur had great respect for him and loved him.



Marriage

At Khadur lived one aunt of Lehna whose name was Bibi Virae. She was the daughter of Takht Mal of Serai Naga. She was married to Chaudhri Mehma of Khadur. Being sister of seven brothers, everybody called her Sat-Bharaee (sister of seven brothers). Her father out of love called her Virae and so did other people. She was a very pious and gentle lady. Bhai Lehna's father Baba Pharu Mal worked as an accountant for Bibi Virae's father Takht Mal. So, he had to go to Takht Mal's house quite often. Bibi Virae considered Baba Pharu Mal as her brother. For this reason Lehna called her aunty and respected her. Bibi Virae was fond of Lehna and treated him with love.

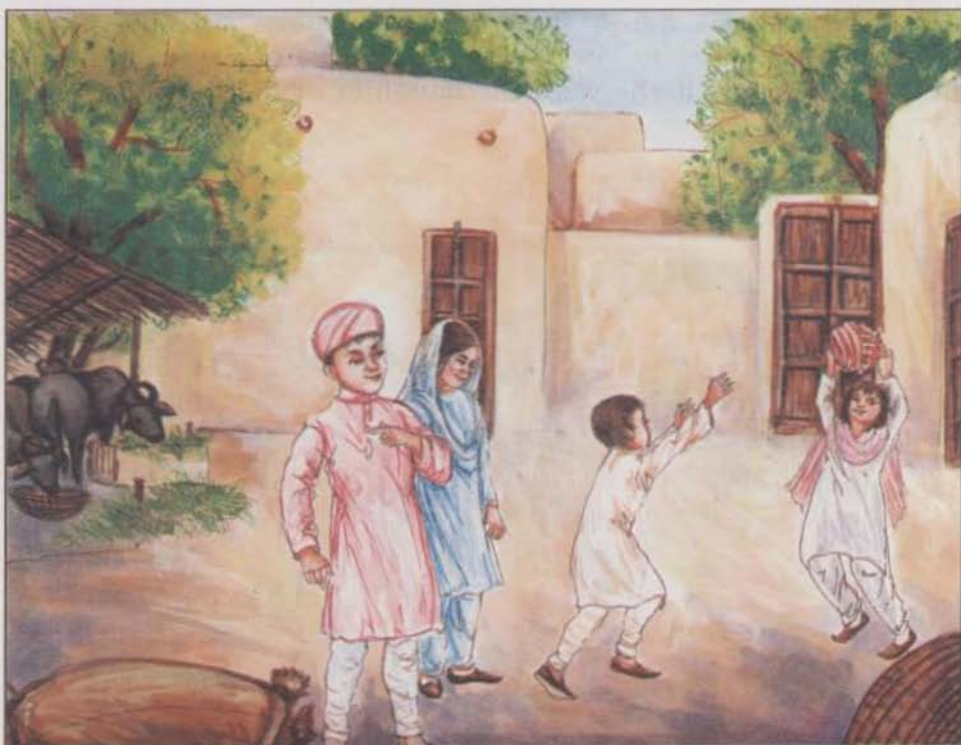
Devi Chand Marwah was a rich merchant of Sanghar. His daughter Kheevi was of marriageable age. Bibi Virae suggested the name of Lehna to Devi Chand for marriage of his daughter Bibi Kheevi. She also talked to Baba Pharu Mal. In this way the marriage of Lehna with Bibi Kheevi was celebrated in January, 1520. Bibi Kheevi was a sweet natured, pious, kind and loving lady. As a daughter-in-law she won the heart of everybody in her in-laws' house as if she were the daughter of the house.



Children

Two sons and two daughters were born to Bhai Lehna and Bibi Kheevi. The elder son Daasu was born in the year 1524 and the younger Daatu in the year 1537. Amongst the daughters, the elder one Bibi Amro was born in the year 1526 and the younger Bibi Anokhi in the year 1535 at Khadur.

The parents brought up their children well. Mother Bibi Kheevi trained them nicely to look after the house and family. Bibi Amro got married to Bhai Jassu of Basarke (Distt. Amritsar). He was the son of Manak Chand, brother of Baba Amar Das (later on called Guru Amar Das). Bibi Amro was very intelligent, accomplished and virtuous. She was the first who introduced Baba Amardas to Guru Angad Dev.



Pilgrimage to Vaishno Devi

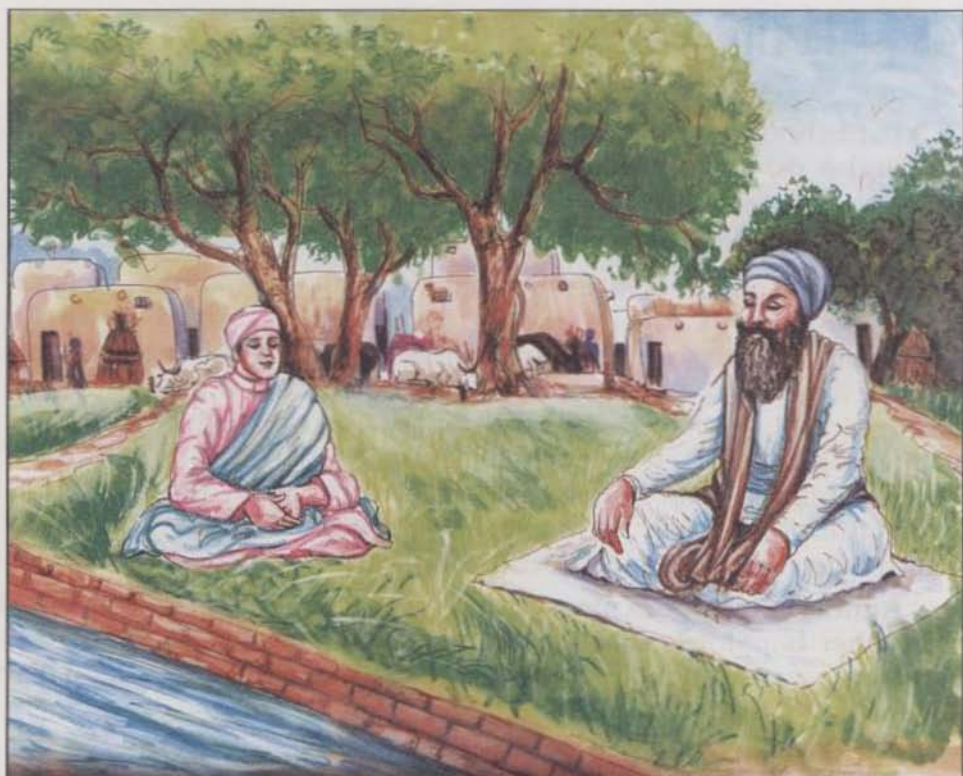
Bhai Lehna's father Baba Pharu Mal was a very religious person and a devotee of Vaishno Devi. He was a Vaishnav.

Year after year he used to lead a group of Devi devotees to the shrine Jawala Mukhi for Devi Darshan.

Children are always influenced by what the parents believe. Impressed by his father's belief, Lehna also started going for pilgrimage to the shrine of Vaishno Devi. With tinkle bells on his ankles, cymbals in hand and drums hanging from the neck, golden embroidered scarf on head, he went with the Devi devotees for pilgrimage. After the death of Baba Pharu Mal in 1526 all responsibility of the house and earning came on his head. But even after the death of his father he did not miss the yearly pilgrimage. Now, he had to lead the group to Vaishno Devi.

Another five years passed like this. But the peace of mind and inner happiness that he sought for, he did not get. He always felt some vacuum in his life that did not fill. He was on the lookout of a true Guru.





Magic of Holy Scripture

The followers of Devi organized a nightlong singing of praises of Devi at Khadur. The burning of refined butter gave a bright flame. Everybody sang the hymns of Jai Mata. The whole night it went on like that, till it was early morning.

In the morning our beloved Bhai Lehna went to the lake to have a bath where he heard sweet *Bani*.

Here at the bank of the lake Bhai Jodh a disciple of Guru Nanak was reciting a verse from the Holy Scripture *Asa Di Var* that meant,

"One should always remember the Lord by whose remembrance one gets all the happiness. When one has to bear the fruits of one's deeds, then, why do evil deeds?"

One should not do evil by any chance even by mistake. We should think deeply, what would be the result? Why do such deeds that take you into forgetfulness of the Lord?

One should do good deeds, and remember the Lord. Love begets love. When we love the Lord, the Lord will love us also.

Bhai Jodh went on reciting the Holy Scripture and Lehna sat close to him. He got deeply absorbed in listening. He felt exquisite pleasure.

He got so much pleasure in the hymns of *Asa Raag* that he had never experienced in singing the hymns of *Jai Mata* in his pilgrimages.

The recitation stopped. Bhai Jodh opened his eyes. Lehna bowed towards his feet and asked: Gentleman, whose hymns were you reciting? I felt immense peace of mind and happiness.

Bhai Jodh replied: These are the hymns of Guru Nanak Dev.

Lehna asked: Where is he staying?

Bhai Jodh: The enlightened Guru is at present staying at the bank of the river Ravi at Kartapur (Now in Pakistan). He is guiding the people of this Un-enlightened era (Kalyug) on the true path of 'recitation of the Lord's name with love'.

On listening to all this, Lehna made up his mind to go to Kartapur and have a glimpse of Guru Nanak Dev.

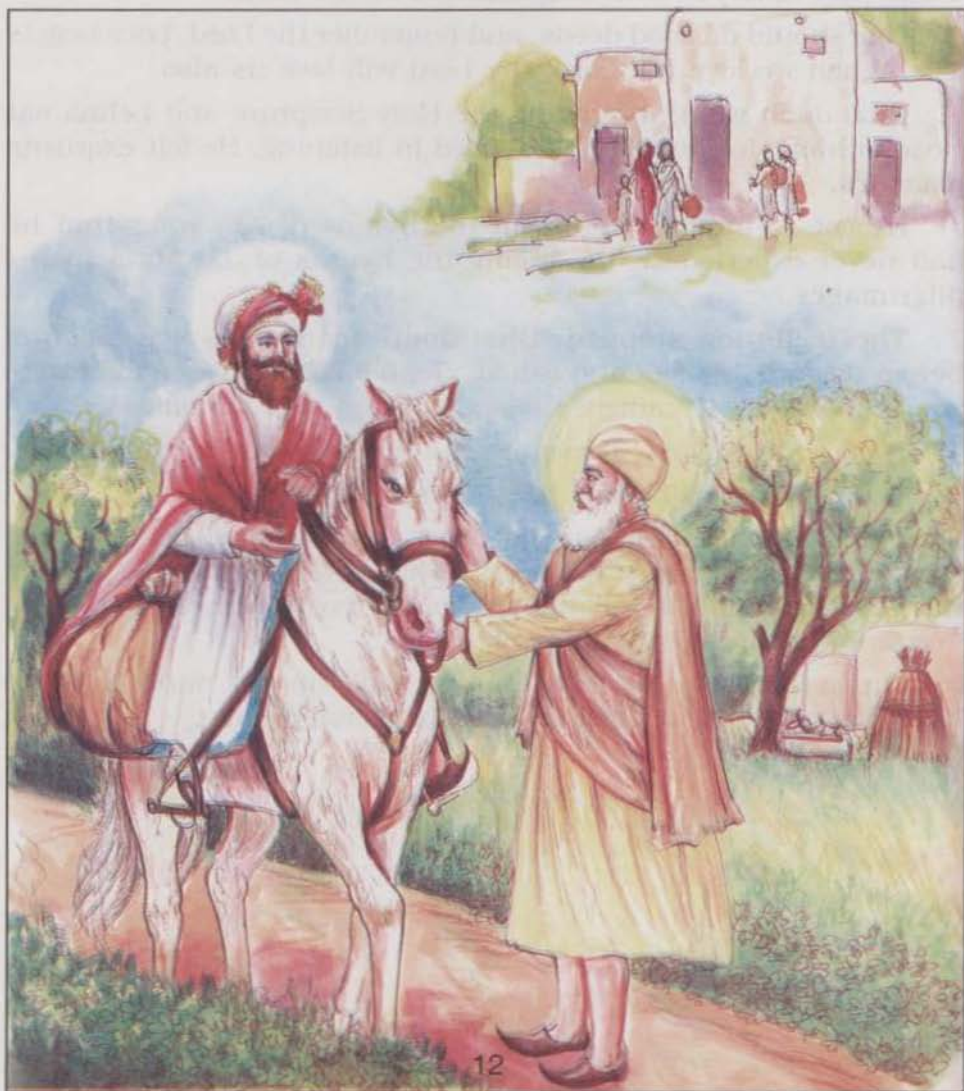
Lehna meets Guru Nanak Dev

A day came when he and his party left for pilgrimage to the shrine of Vaishno Devi. On the way they halted at Kartarpur.

The followers of Devi sang the praises of Jai Mata for a long time at night. But Lehna was longing to meet Guru Nanak Dev and have his glimpse.

Next morning, Lehna went to the town riding on his horse.

When he reached the town, he saw a serene comely person standing on the road.



With humility he asked: Can you please tell me where does Guru Nanak Dev live?

How could Lehna imagine that for whose glimpse he had come to Kartarpur, he himself would come to receive him. What a coincidence?

The serene and comely person (Beloved Guru Nanak Dev) said to Lehna: Come. I am going that side. Follow me on your horse.

When they reached near the Gurdwara, then, the serene and comely person asked Lehna to tie the horse to the pillar and come inside.

While Lehna tied the horse to the pillar, Guru Nanak Dev went inside and sat on his seat.

When Lehna went inside and bowed down then he was startled: Oh! He is the same spring of radiance whom I had asked the way and he brought me from the street corner up to the Gurdwara. He is the king of the Heavens and earth Guru Nanak Dev.

He fell at the guru's feet and begged pardon again and again for the disrespect saying: Oh! I am sorry you were walking and I was riding the horse.

But the Guru lifted his head and assured him that it was no disrespect. He asked Lehna about his welfare and then asked his name. When Lehna told his name Guru Nanak Dev looked towards Lehna with charm in his eyes, smiled and said: Yes you are the taker and I have to be a giver to you

(In Punjabi language Lehna means to take).

On listening to the Guru's words Lehna was overwhelmed and tears flowed down his eyes. Again, he fell at the Guru's feet. The Guru lifted his head and embraced him closely. In this embrace, Lehna felt a sensation of the presence of the Lord in his mind, heart and body and got ecstasy that he had never felt before in life.

All said, Lehna felt so much attracted to Guru Nanak Dev that he told his party men, the followers of Devi: You may go on your pilgrimage. I am staying here. The peace of mind that I was searching, I have found here at Guru Nanak Dev's feet.

Sprinkling of Saffron

Beloved Bhai Lehna stayed at Kartarpur with Guru Nanak Dev for a few days. Then he returned to Khadur.

At Khadur he did not feel happy. He longed to go back to Kartarpur after entrusting the responsibility of the business and the house to his two sons Daasu and Daatu.

He was emotionally attracted to the Guru's love. He was in love for Guru Nanak Dev. The one embrace of Guru Nanak Dev had transformed his mind into the incessant recitation of the Lord's name that gave ecstasy.

After a few days he entrusted the responsibility of the family to Bibi Kheevi and the sons and decided to go to Kartarpur.

Soon after he carried a heavy bundle of salt on his head and started for Kartarpur. He took the salt for the Guru's kitchen. Steadily he reached Kartarpur.



After putting the bundle down in the Guru's kitchen he enquired about Guru Nanak Dev. He was told that Guru had gone to the fields for some cultivation work.

How could Bhai Lehna just sit? He enquired the location and went to the fields. He met Guru Nanak Dev in the fields and fell at the Guru's feet.

At that time a bundle of plucked grass and weeds was lying there. The Guru asked Bhai Lehna to pick up the bundle of grass and leaves and take it home as the cows and buffaloes were to be fed. The grass and weeds were wet and the muddy water was oozing out.

Bhai Lehna was wearing new silken clothes. Without caring for his new silken clothes, immediately on listening the Guru's words he picked up the bundle of grass and put it on his head and went home.

When Guru Nanak Dev came home, the respected lady of the house Mata Sulakhni, with emotion, told the Guru that first Bhai Lehna had carried a bundle of salt on his head and again he has carried a load on his head and his silken clothes have all got spoiled with the mud falling on them.

On listening to the words of Mata Sulakhni, Guru Nanak Dev smiled and said: O good lady, he was not carrying the weight of two bags, that was the weight of the two worlds on his head.

That was not the grass plucked from the rice fields. That was a crown from the Lord on his head.

That was not mud on his clothes. That was a sprinkling of saffron on his clothes.

He has to become the king of my divine kingdom. He wore the holy crown.

Guru Nanak Dev's words indicated the prophecy that only few would understand. This signified the great responsibility that Guru Nanak Dev wished to entrust to Bhai Lehna in the years to come.

At Kartarpur

After coming to Kartarpur Bhai Lehna got engrossed in the service of the Guru and the congregation. He was dipped in Guru-love. He did not care for anything else. The delight that he got in becoming a disciple of Guru Nanak Dev, even a worldly kingdom would not give.

Poet Santokh Singh has described the love of Bhai Lehna as follows: If he were to give his head for Guru's sake he would not think or wait even for a moment.

He stayed at Kartarpur and served the Guru like a bee sits on the flower.

He used to get up early in the morning and after bathing recite Japji Sahib. Then he would sit in the Gurdwara and listen to the divine hymns.

He would serve in the Guru's kitchen and wash utensils also.

All the time he recited the Lord's name. He always waited for the orders of the Guru and complied them without delay.

In service and humility he felt ecstasy.

He set the standards of discipleship and religiousity. He became a lighthouse in this worldly ocean. He became a guiding star for the world.

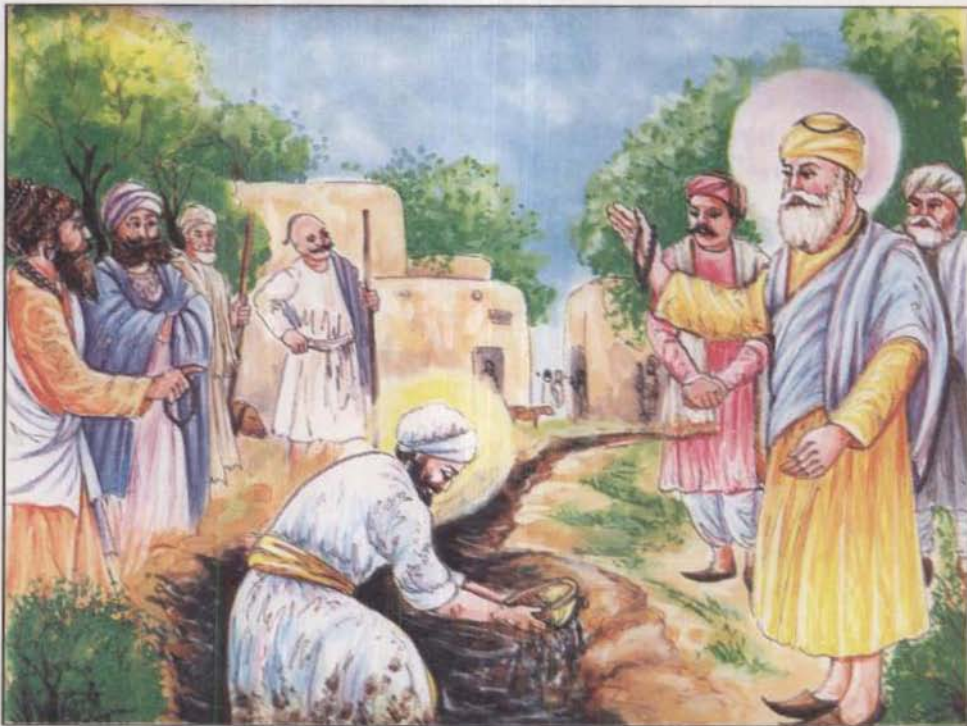


Taking Out A Bowl from Sewer Drain

There were many happenings at Kartarpur in the life of Bhai Lehna (Guru Angad Dev). They are written in Janamsakhis.

In these stories we can see all his goodness, his love for the Guru, his humility, his devotion to the Scripture, his simplicity and above all his recitation of the Lord's name constantly.

Guru Nanak Dev's daily programme was that he used to get up very early in the morning and go to the river Ravi for a bath. Then he would sit in meditation or listen to the divine hymns. In the day also whenever he was free from work he would recite the Lord's Name.



Once Guru Nanak Dev, after having a bath, was coming back home. He was carrying an empty bowl of yogurt in his hand. Some disciples also walked along.

While crossing a sewer drain the bowl of yogurt slipped from his hand and fell in the drain. The water in the drain was stinking.

The Guru asked his disciples and his sons that someone should go and bring out the bowl.

Somebody said: What is the need to take out the bowl from the sewer drain? A new bowl can be bought. Somebody said: This work is for sweepers. Despite telling them again, nobody went to bring out the bowl.

In those times the caste system was prevalent. Some considered themselves as upper caste and others as lower caste. Rajputs were supposed to fight wars. Vaish and Khattris were supposed to do only farming and business. The low castes were supposed to do the menial work like sweeping. That is why the disciples and the sons did not like to enter the sewer drain.

Then, Guru Nanak Dev asked Bhai Lehna to go and take out the bowl from the sewer drain. Bhai Lehna immediately went and took the bowl out. Then, he washed it nicely, made it clean and gave it to the Guru.

Actually, Guru Nanak Dev was testing as to who is that disciple who has rid himself from the false belief of caste and creed and treats everyone as equal. Bhai Lehna proved his test.

Construction of Gurdwara Wall

It was winter and extreme cold. The sky was overcast with dark clouds.

It started raining. Due to heavy rains the Gurdwara wall collapsed.

It was late at night. Guru Nanak Dev called his sons and some disciples and asked them to reconstruct the wall.

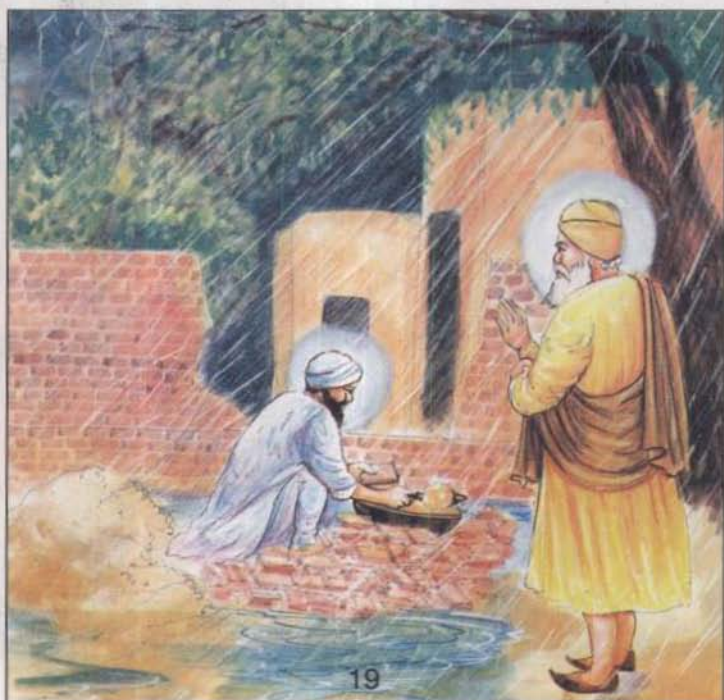
Baba Siri Chand and Baba Lakhmi Das said: It is late night and still raining heavily. In the morning we can call some masons and get it repaired.

Then the Guru asked other disciples who were present that it would be better to reconstruct the wall right now.

The disciples said: It is late night and difficult to collect the materials required. In the morning we shall do the needful.

Then the Guru asked Bhai Lehna who immediately started reconstructing the collapsed wall. He kept working for the entire night and by morning the wall was reconstructed.

This is another example Bhai Lehna's utmost regard and obedience for Guru Nanak.



Washing the Dirty Linen

It was pitch dark. Quietness prevailed. All disciples and servants were asleep.

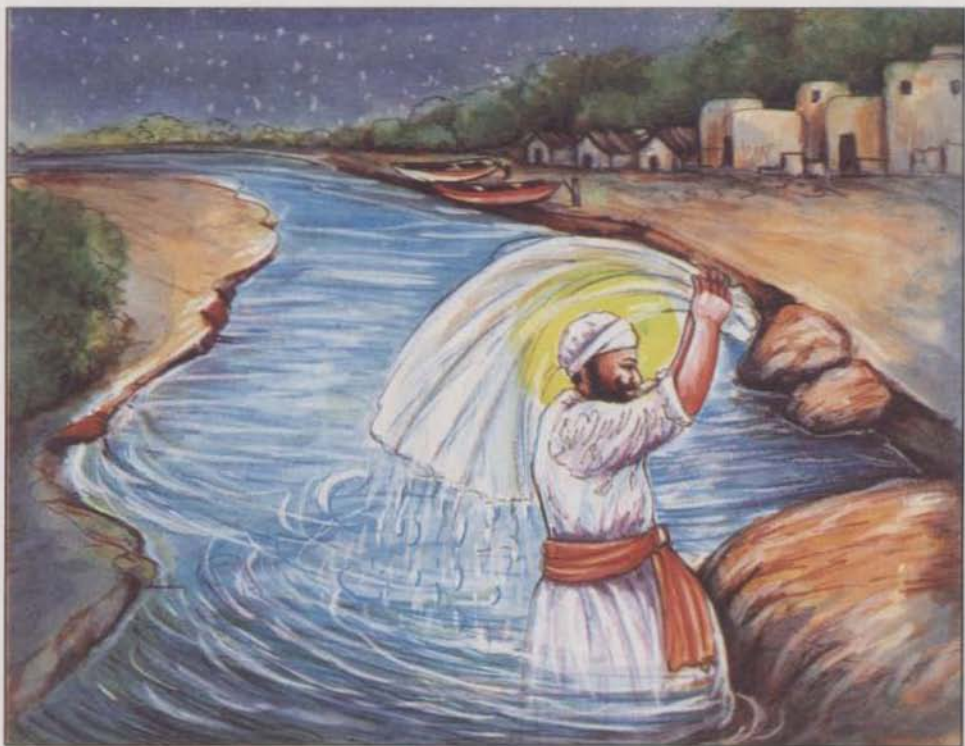
Guru Nanak Dev got up and said: My sheet looks dirty. Go and wash it just now.

Everybody who heard the Guru's order was wary as to how could anybody go to the river Ravi for washing the sheet at that time of the night when it was so dark.

When he asked his sons, then, they refused point blank and said: This is the washerman's job. We would call the washerman in the morning. He would wash the sheet and other clothes.

Other disciples also put off saying that they would wash the clothes in the morning.

When the Guru asked Bhai Lehna, then, at that very time Bhai Lehna picked up the dirty linen and went to the river to wash. It was his nature that he never argued or said no to the Guru. Out of love, he did everything that the Guru wished.



Bhai Lehna said: It is the master who has to order and it is the duty of the disciple to obey the orders. I am a humble servant of the Guru. It is not for me to argue or say no to what he orders. My duty is to obey the orders of the Guru. I am delighted to do so.

Actually, Guru Nanak wanted to judge as to who would be the right person who could take the responsibility of the Lord's command to preach His name and allay the suffering of the people after he himself would leave this earth. He should be somebody who had humility, forbearance and determination. He should have love for the Lord and love for humanity. His mind should be rid of mistaken beliefs of upper caste and low caste. He should not consider anybody as low caste. He should not consider anybody as untouchable. He should consider everybody as equal.

In these circumstances he was testing the virtues of his sons and other disciples. It was only Bhai Lehna who was perfect in all what Guru Nanak Dev wished. That is how he had chosen him as his successor.

Sanghar - Khadur

Three years passed since Bhai Lehna was in the service of Guru Nanak Dev as an ideal disciple. Everybody was impressed by his exemplary devotion and selfless service to the Guru. Guru Nanak Dev did not wish that his disciple Bhai Lehna should renounce the family and the house and become a recluse. His doctrine is that while living in the house and the family one could get out of the cycle of births and deaths and get eternal happiness. That is what Guru Nanak Dev wished to preach to his disciples. One day, the Guru said: It is a long time since you left your house and family. Better go to your town and take care of your family. In obedience to the orders of the Guru Bhai Lehna left for his hometown. He met his in-laws at Sanghar and his own family at Khadur. His family members were immensely delighted to meet him after a long separation. His praise spread in the entire town like the moonlight in the winter season. Bhai Lehna stayed at Khadur for sometime. But his mind was at Guru Nanak Dev's feet at Kartarpur and the body in the hometown. Like the partridge longing for the moonlight he was craving to meet Guru Nanak Dev. He was emotionally restless to return to Kartarpur. His family however, insisted that he should stay at home. But Bhai Lehna whose mind blossomed only when he fell at the Guru's feet saw towards the land where Guru Nanak Dev lived and leaving his sentimental relations, he returned to Kartarpur and had a glimpse of the godly soul. On reaching Kartarpur he was at the service of the Guru, recitation of the Lord's name and listening to the praises of the Lord. Sometimes he used to go to his hometown and then come back. His desire was Guru Nanak Dev's glimpse and his true homeland was the land where Guru Nanak Dev lived.



Final Test

In the Sikh history there are many stories pertaining to the life of Bhai Lehna.

Once Guru Nanak Dev made an awe-inspiring appearance. He wore dirty clothes like low caste persons, tied a rope round his waist and carried a heavy stick. On his shoulder he carried some bags that were filled with coins of bronze, silver and gold.

In this appearance he walked towards the river Ravi. Many disciples followed him but were astonished as to what had happened to the Guru. Many of them came away in disgust seeing his awe-inspiring face. The rest who were following were asked by the Guru to go back but still they walked along.

Now, the Guru took one bag down from his shoulder and started throwing the bronze coins. Many disciples got busy in collecting the coins and after filling their pockets returned to their homes.

Moving further, the Guru started throwing the silver coins and later the gold coins. Again many of the disciples got busy in collecting the silver and gold coins and after filling their pockets went back to their homes.



Only a few were left who were still following him. The Guru asked them to go back. When they did not go, the Guru beat them with the heavy stick that he had in his hand.

Now, everybody went away except Lehna.

When Bhai Lehna was the only one who remained, then, the Guru asked: O dear, everybody has gone. Why didn't you go?

Then Bhai Lehna said (with folded hands): Your Holiness, everybody would be having some abode but O king of the heaven and earth, I have no abode excepting you. Where should I go?

Now the Guru went towards a desolate place. There was a pyre of wood. It appeared that a dead body was kept over it covered with a white sheet. Actually, it was a miracle of Guru Nanak Dev.

Then the Guru said to Bhai Lehna: If you wish to stay with me, then eat what is lying there, otherwise go.

Bhai Lehna without any hesitation asked: Your Holiness, from which side should I lift the sheet.

The Guru looked towards Bhai Lehna with benevolence and said: Lift from the middle of the sheet.

When Bhai Lehna lifted the sheet it was sacred sweet lying there.

Guru Nanak Dev now looked towards Bhai Lehna with extreme graciousness, embraced him forthwith and said: You are my form now. You are the Supreme Guru.

When Guru Nanak Dev saw Bhai Lehna as a perfect disciple, he also saw that Bhai Lehna hadn't an iota of ego. Bhai Lehna had all the good virtues like humility, sweetness, patience, forbearance, courtesy and strength to sustain spiritual power. His mind was fully detached from worldly desires and riches. He was always in delight, sweet and in blossom. His face emitted radiance and his body was like a fountain of love. He was in exuberance always and his glimpse gave ecstasy and rapture.

Thus Bhai Lehna became an image of Guru Nanak Dev. Now he could sit on the throne of Guru-ship and preach the Lord's name with love to the people.

Gurugaddi

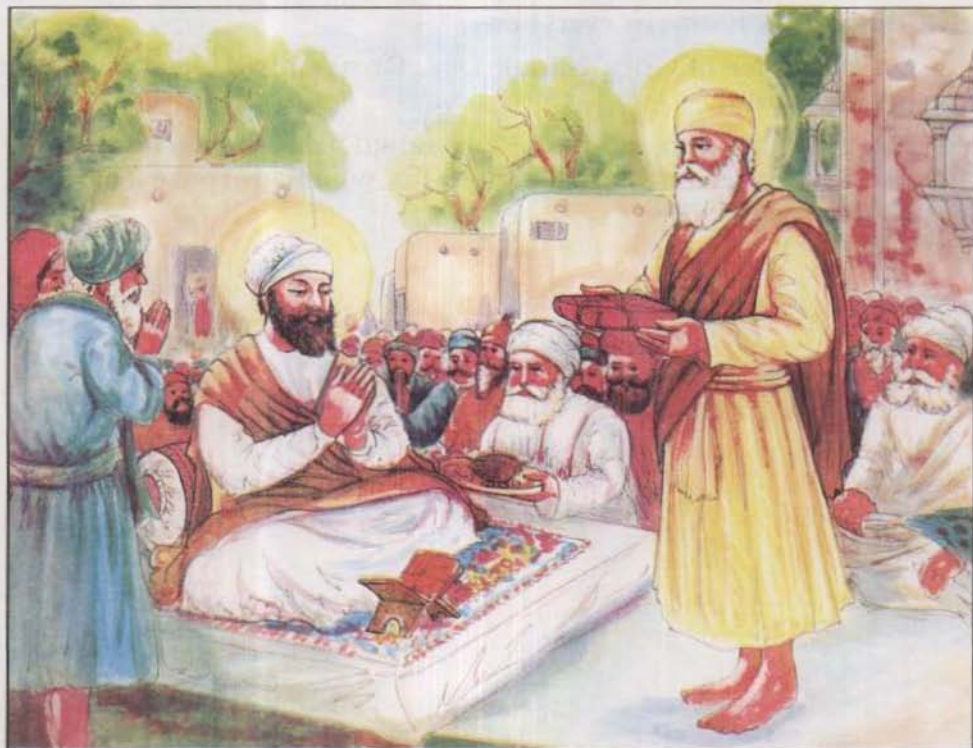
A few months before Guru Nanak Dev leaving for heaven in September 1539, he had announced that after him Bhai Lehna would be the heir to the Gurugaddi.

He renamed Bhai Lehna as Angad i.e., image of Guru Nanak.

One day the Guru Nanak Dev went for a bath in the river. Bhai Lehna remained sitting on the bank immersed in meditation and love of Guru Nanak Dev. Guru Nanak Dev finished his bath and came out but Lehna was so absorbed in meditation that he did not notice.

Now Guru Nanak Dev woke up Bhai Lehna from his meditation. He held Bhai Lehna's arm and brought him to the Gurdwara. The congregation also assembled. The Guru called his sons and family. Then he walked in a circle around Bhai Lehna offered five paise and a coconut and bowed his head down.

Yes, the Guru of the world bowed his head before his own beloved disciple. He made the disciple as the Guru.



He said: Your name is Guru Angad Dev now. Give the Lord's name to everybody.

Then the Guru said to Bhai Buddha: O dear, you are the leader among disciples. You put the saffron mark denoting Guru-ship on the forehead of Guru Angad Dev.

Bhai Buddha got up and with extreme love put the saffron mark on the forehead of Guru Angad Dev and then fell at his feet.

Then Guru Nanak Dev asked the entire congregation to bow to Guru Angad Dev. Everybody bowed.

Bhai Gurdas, the most renowned saint and scholar of Sikh literature writes: Guru Nanak Dev, in his life time put the crown of Guru-ship on Guru Angad Dev's head and then bowed. He named Bhai Lehna as Guru Angad i.e., image of Guru Nanak.

At the time of giving the seat of Guru-ship to Guru Angad Dev, Guru Nanak Dev handed over the sacred book in which his sacred compositions were written (Old Biography).

Guru Angad Dev was 35 years old when he sat on the Guru-seat.

Guru Nanak Dev asked him to go and stay at Khadur and give the Lord's name to everybody.

On the order of Guru Nanak Dev, Guru Angad Dev came and stayed at Khadur.

For full thirteen years he preached the Lord's name and allayed the suffering of the people for which purpose the Lord sent Guru Nanak Dev.

Mai Virae

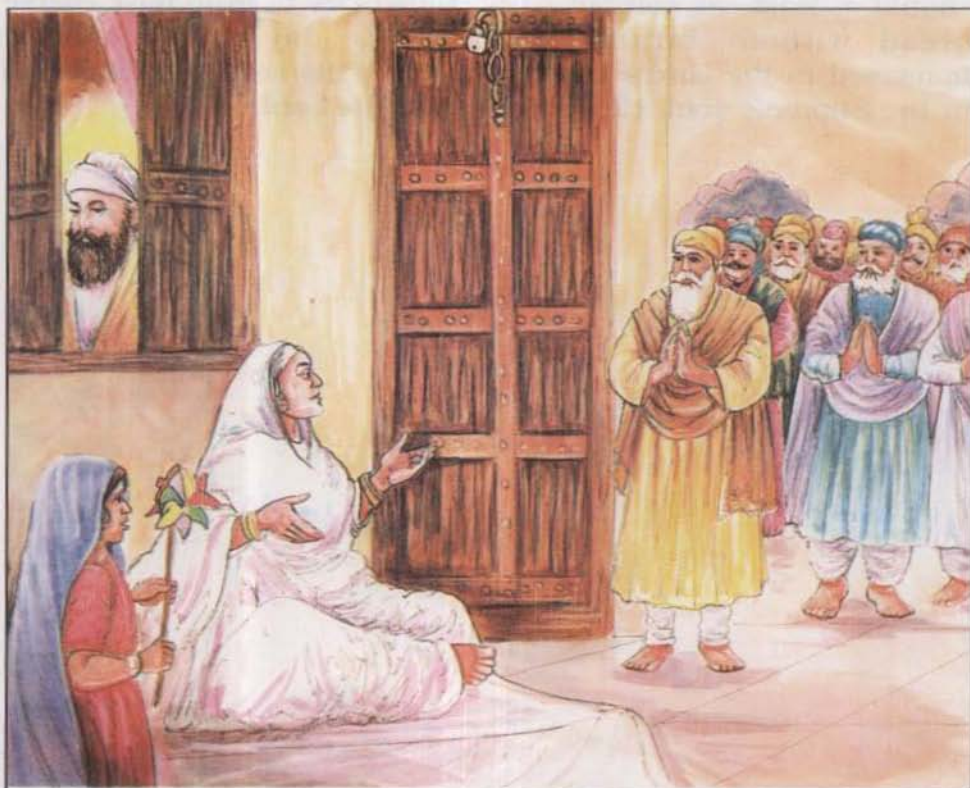
It was very difficult for Guru Angad Dev to be away from Guru Nanak Dev. But it was the master's order. How could he disobey?

As ordered he went to Khadur but he was in pangs of separation.

The whole day he would sit in meditation.

At Khadur, lived one lady whose name was Mai Virae. She was the daughter of Chaudhri Takht Mal, a big landlord of Naga-Serai. This lady had seven brothers. People called her Sat-Bharae meaning sister of seven brothers. Her father out of love called her Virae and so did everybody else. She was married to Chaudhri Mehma who was settled in Khadur.

Guru Nanak Dev had blessed her with the Lord's name as she was a very pious lady. Mai Virae had arranged the marriage of Guru Angad Dev with Bibi Kheevi daughter of Bhai Devi Chand, resident of Sanghar.



Once when Guru Nanak came to Sanghar, he stayed at the house of Mai Virae. She had extreme devotion for Guru Nanak Dev.

Guru Angad Dev, after coming from Kartarpur, went to Bibi Virae's house and said: I wish to spend sometime in solitude but my coming here should remain a secret.

Mai Virae got one room cleaned, furnished it with a bed and provided a nice Asan for sitting in the room. The Guru stayed in the room while it remained locked from outside. If somebody asked her regarding the whereabouts of the Guru, then she would keep them in the dark. Even when the Guru's wife Mata Khevi and the Guru's son came and enquired, she put them off.

The Guru remained engrossed in meditation all the time. He would eat very little and sleep for a very short time. He remained engrossed in the love of the Lord all the time.

This engrossment is life. Without this it is lifelessness.

He sat in meditation engrossed in love of Guru Nanak Dev for long periods. Bibi Virae was at his service and wished that he should at least eat well but Guru Angad Dev used to have coarse bread without butter only once a day. He remained immersed in the Lord's love all the time. His soul was immersed in the Supreme soul. He was one with the Lord.

The Guru gives his Glimpse

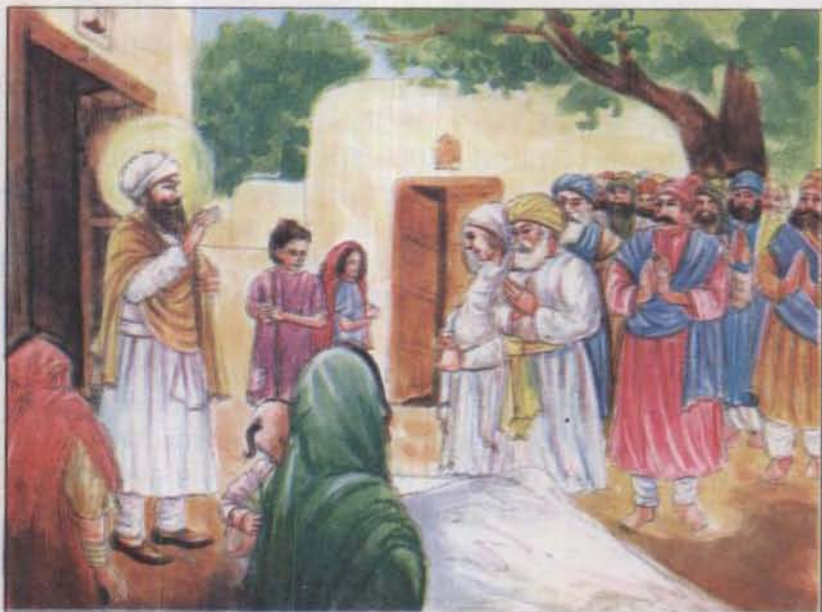
Six months elapsed since Guru Nanak Dev had left for the Heaven. The disciples who came to have glimpse of Guru Angad Dev to get his blessings felt disappointed.

Nobody knew where Guru Angad had gone after leaving Kartarpur. Baba Siri Chand, the elder son of Guru Nanak Dev had started preaching the recluse way of life.

But Guru Nanak Dev preached 'living in the family with mind detached'.

He said that one should not shirk the responsibility of the family and renounce.

He said: The mind has to detach from worldly entanglements and attach to the Lord. One should attain this while living in the family. This could be attained by 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love' and there was no need to renounce the house and family.



The disciples who went to Kartarpur returned to their homes disappointed. The Guru could not be found at his family house in Khadur.

Then the congregation went to Amritsar and met Baba Buddha who was one of the most respected disciples of Guru Nanak Dev.

Bhai Buddha had put the saffron mark of Guru-ship on Guru Angad Dev's forehead.

The congregation requested Bhai Buddha to search for the Guru and pray to him to take the responsibility of Guru-ship. The congregation was in despair and worried that without the blessings of a true Guru people would go astray.

On listening to the request of the congregation Bhai Buddha accompanied by five prominent men started towards Khadur.

He knew that Guru Nanak Dev before leaving for the heavens had ordered Guru Angad Dev to go and stay at Khadur and spread the Lord's name from there.

Guru Nanak Dev had thought that if Guru Angad Dev stayed at Kartarpur, he might have to face some opposition from his sons Baba Siri Chand and Baba Lakhmi Das. Both the sons were not happy on Guru Nanak Dev's decision to give the Guru-seat to Guru Angad Dev. They thought that being the legal heirs of Guru Nanak Dev they were the rightful owners of the Guru-seat.

Bhai Gurdas in his writings has mentioned that the sons did not honour Guru Nanak Dev's decision to give Guru-seat to Guru Angad Dev. Baba Siri Chand and Baba Lakhmi Das did not realise that the Guru-ship was not something like land or property that could be acquired as a legal right. It was immersion of Guru-soul with the Supreme soul. As Guru Nanak Dev's soul was immersed in the Supreme soul, Guru Angad Dev's soul was immersed in the Supreme soul.

The five 'ideal men' who came to Khadur with Bhai Buddha were: Bhai Ajita Randhawa, Bhai Dhero, Bhai Boora Kalal, Bhai Bhagirath Anand and Bhai Sadharan. This group that was out to search for Guru Angad Dev reached Mai Virae's house at Khadur. When Bhai Buddha asked about the Guru from the devoted lady, she did not reply.

Bhai Buddha then looked on all sides and noticed that one room was locked from outside and there was fresh plaster on the door on the other side.

Bhai Buddha intuitively understood that His Holiness, Guru Angad Dev was there only. He removed the plaster on the other side door, opened the door and entered the room. The moment he entered he saw the radiant face of the godly soul. He got a glimpse of Guru Angad Dev sitting on a settee in deep meditation immersed in the love of the Lord. He felt it was an image of Guru Nanak Dev sitting. Bhai Buddha and the 'ideal disciples' who had come along with him fell at the Guru's feet. Bhai Buddha prayed with folded hands: O benevolent Guru, the congregation is longing to have your glimpse. They are having pangs in separation from you. Give them your glimpse. Bestow your grace and happiness to them.

Seeing the craving and the longing of the congregation, Guru Angad Dev came out from his solitude and sat in the open courtyard.

Bhai Satta and Bhai Balwand who had come to Khadur with the congregation recited the divine hymns. People thronged to Khadur to have his blessings.

Guru Angad Dev gave the Lord's name to everybody and put people on the right path of 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love'.

Khadur Sahib-New Centre for Spreading the Lord's Name

Guru Nanak Dev in his later age stayed at Kartarpur (Now in Pakistan). Here Bhai Lehna whom Guru Nanak Dev named Guru Angad Dev came to serve Guru Nanak Dev and became the second Guru on Guru-ship seat.

Before leaving for heavenly abode Guru Nanak Dev had ordered Guru Angad Dev to go and stay at Khadur.

This has been mentioned by Bhai Gurdas as also by Bhai Satta and Bhai Balwand in their writings: Guru Angad Dev left Kartarpur and came and stayed at Khadur and spread the Lord's name.



In the history it is mentioned that Guru Angad Dev used to get up early in the morning, take a bath and then go into meditation of the Lord's Name.

When he would open his eyes, he would go to the Gurdwara.

In *Mehma Prakash* it is written that whoever got his first glimpse in the morning, his sufferings and maladies vanished.

In the Gurdwara he listened to the singing of the divine hymns and when the singing stopped he gave a discourse. In the day also whoever came, he explained Guru Nanak Dev's doctrine to everyone and blessed them with the Lord's Name. At noon he would join everybody in the Guru's kitchen and have lunch sitting together with the congregation. Guru Nanak Dev had started the practice of community kitchen to rid people from the old traditions of high and low caste and feelings of estrangement for people of different faiths. Nobody was differentiated in the Guru's kitchen. Everybody sat together and was served food in the same way. Mata Kheevi looked after the Guru's kitchen.

After lunch the guru rested for a while. In the evening, the compositions of Guru Nanak Dev were recited and sung as per the practice laid down by him. The Guru's musicians sang the divine hymns.

At night after dinner he relaxed before going to bed. He considered time as very precious and did not waste a single moment.

Mata Kheevi

In Guru Granth Sahib, the Holy Scripture, is mentioned the name of only one Sikh lady and that is of Mata Kheevi.

The Guru's musicians Bhai Satta and Bhai Balwand have, in Ramkali Rag, praised her abundantly cool and sweet nature.

Mata Kheevi was the wife of Guru Angad Dev. Her father Bhai Devi Chand was settled in Sanghar (near Khadur). The marriage of Guru Angad Dev with Mata Kheevi was performed in 1519. At that time Lodhi Pathans were ruling and Sikander Lodhi was the ruler of the country.

When Guru Angad Dev sat on the Guru-seat and started giving the Lord's name to everyone, Mata Kheevi with humility asked, "What are your orders for me?"

Bhai Sahib Dr. Vir Singh, in *Asht Guru Chamatkar* writes: Then, Guru Angad Dev replied, "When Guru Nanak gave me the Lord's Name to distribute, then, the service of the Guru's kitchen came to you. Now, you serve."

Mata Virae heard this. She hurriedly went to the kitchen, brought a serving spoon, gave it to the Guru and said: Your Holi-



ness, Guru Nanak Dev himself gave you the Lord's Name to spread. Now, with your own hands give this serving spoon to my sister-in-law Bibi Kheevi."

The Guru looked towards Mai Virae and smiled. Then he blessed and gave the serving spoon to Mata Kheevi for service in the Guru's kitchen.

As per the wish of the Guru, Mata Kheevi took the responsibility of the Guru's kitchen and the stay of the disciples who came to Khadur to take blessings from the Guru.

Guru Angad Dev blessed the Lord's Name to everybody who came while Mata Kheevi served food in the Guru's kitchen. Mata Kheevi looked after the comforts of the disciples with enthusiasm and love.

In the Guru's kitchen besides the other foods even sweet rice pudding with clarified butter was also served.

Mata Kheevi was a very sweet and loving natured lady. She served and looked after the disciples all the time. She always recited the Lord's Name while doing all this service.

She had two sons, Daatu and Daasu and two daughters Bibi Amro and Bibi Anokhi. Both the daughters imbibed all the good virtues from their mother and father Guru Angad Dev. Mata Kheevi always prompted her sons to be obedient to their father Guru Angad Dev.

In those times the custom for women was to wear a veil on the face. The women veiled their faces when they went out of the house.

Mata Kheevi was the first lady from the Guru family who discarded the practice of veil and served the disciples without wearing the veil on her face.

Thus, she took a big leap in improving the standard of women.

Along with Guru Angad Dev she rendered great service in the spreading of the Lord's Name. She was an 'ideal wife' and a true saintly lady. She spent her entire life in meditation, service to humanity, recitation of Name and devotion to the Lord. She was a fountain of godly love that she gave to all.

Compiling Guru Nanak's Hymns

When Guru Angad Dev sat on the Guru-seat then the first and foremost work that he did was that he collected Guru Nanak Dev's compositions and preached those to the disciples.

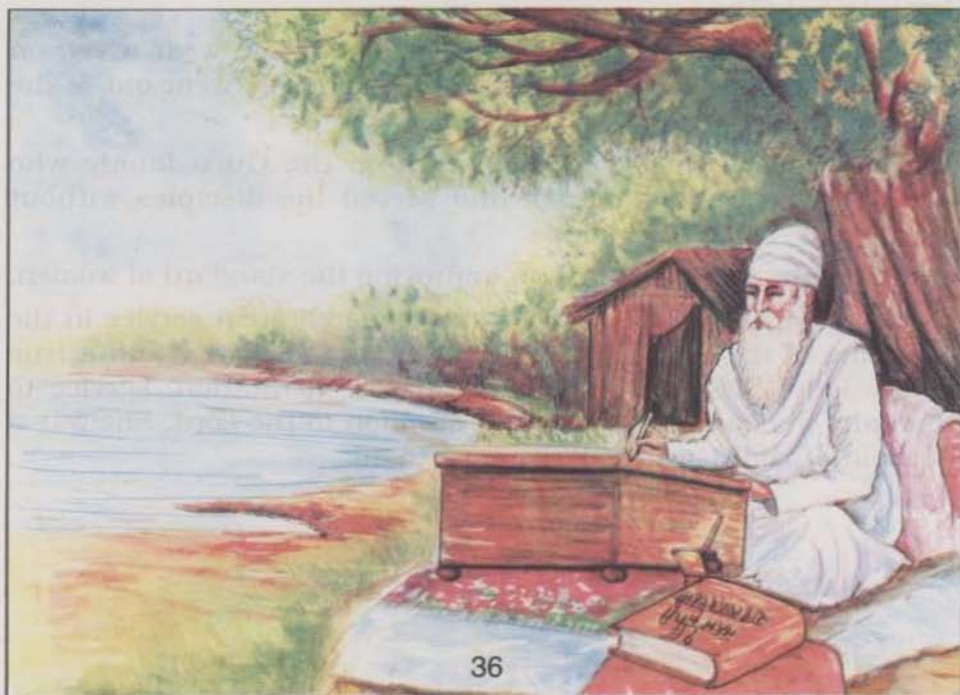
In the old Janamsakhi it is mentioned that Guru Nanak Dev, before leaving for heavens handed over a *Pothi* in which his compositions were written.

It is mentioned a *Pothi* containing Guru Nanak's hymns was given to Guru Angad Dev.

Nevertheless, some disciples at different places had some compositions.

Guru Angad Dev sent messages to all disciples far and wide that all those who were holding Guru Nanak Dev's compositions or stories of his lifetime should bring them to Khadur so that they could be conserved at one place.

In the *Asht Guru Chamatkar*, Bhai Sahib Dr. Vir Singh has mentioned the contribution of Bhai Hassu Lohar, Bhai Sheehan Chheemba, Bhai Braham Das (Kashmir), Bhai Saido Gheo, Bhai Jharoo Kalal and Bhai Ajita Randhawa through whom all the compositions of Guru Nanak Dev were collected at one place.



Some of the compositions were written in Sharda script and some in Takri script. The Guru got the entire compositions written in Gurmukhi script, which became a solid foundation for the compilation of the Holy book Guru Granth Sahib in the year 1604.

Guru Angad Dev also composed some hymns 63 couplets which are included in the scripture.

In this divine scripture he has written the true facts that were preached by Guru Nanak Dev in his entire lifetime and made the people understand them properly.

The compositions of Guru Angad Dev are divine writings in a very simple language and on reading the same one gets fragrance of the Lord's Name in the mind, heart and body. His writings inspire you towards recitation of the Lord's Name, service to humanity, and pious living.

His own life was an example of ideal discipleship to Guru Nanak Dev.

He was the guiding star. He showed us the way to become an ideal disciple. He was always immersed in the love of the Lord. His soul was immersed in the Supreme soul. He gave the Lord's name to everybody.

His writings are similar to the writings of Guru Nanak Dev.

In one of the hymns he writes :

A hundred moons may shine
and a thousand suns may shine,
even with that brightness
without a true Guru
the darkness of the mind will not go.

It means : The mind is enticed to worldly desires and is sleeping. Only a true Guru will tell you that the mind can be elevated and awakened by 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love'. Nobody else will tell you that. The darkness of the mind is the forgetfulness of the Lord.

Writing of Janamsakhi

After sitting on the Guru-seat Guru Angad Dev spread the Lord's Name in many ways.

The aim was to inspire the people to read the compositions and follow the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev, to collect the writings and compile them at one place, to promote easily understandable Gurmukhi script, to form a congregation where divine hymns were sung and people developed brotherly feeling for each other and to establish the practice of free kitchen where everybody could take food without consideration of caste or creed, high or low.

Along with this he started collecting the stories of the lifetime of Guru Nanak Dev and got those written. That is now called Janamsakhi. In this Janamsakhi are mentioned the life stories of Guru Nanak Dev, his travels and the places where he went and put people on the true path of 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love' and 'singing the praises of the Lord with love.'

Guru Angad Dev got this biography written as narrated by *Bhai Bala*. It is called 'Biography by *Bhai Bala*'. In the *Asht Guru Chamatkar* Bhai Sahib Dr. Vir Singh wrote that Guru Angad Dev collected the stories of Guru Nanak Dev's childhood from Talwandi. He got some stories from Guru Nanak Dev's uncle Bhai Laloo.

Bhai Bala had observed most of the happenings and miracles of Guru Nanak Dev ji's childhood. Those were also written down.

When Guru Nanak Dev went on his second travel Bhai Saido accompanied him. He was asked to write down all the stories.

Many times when those disciples came who had got blessings from Guru Nanak Dev or they knew any happening of Guru Nanak Dev, Guru Angad Dev would have it written and add it in the *Janamsakhi*.

That is why this *Janamsakhi* is not year-wise. At the end of every story is written: Another story continues.

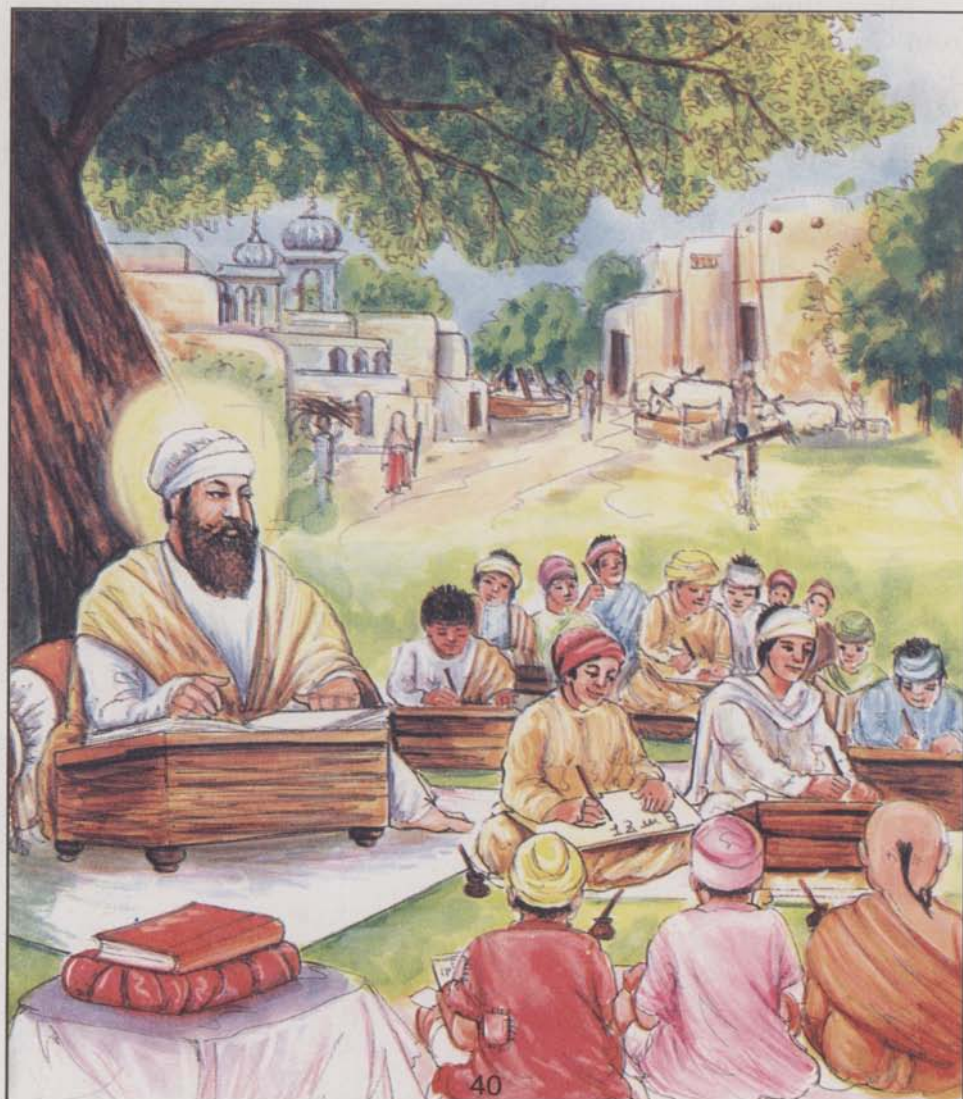
This was the first big step taken by Guru Angad Dev towards writing the Sikh History.

Love for Children

Guru Angad Dev loved children immensely. In the afternoon, after resting for sometime he used to go to the fields.

He would collect young children and see the games that they played. Then he would give prizes to those who won or came first.

He would ask them to 'recite the Lord's Name with love' and 'sing the praises of the Lord with love'. He told them: Lord is the Creator and our father and mother. He is the savior. He gives



nourishment to all. We should always be thankful to the Lord for all that He gives. We should remember Him always.

He established the first school for teaching Punjabi at Khadur, where children would learn Punjabi. Here children were taught to read and write in the Gurmukhi script.

Possibly, the Gurmukhi alphabet already existed in some form but he improved the same and gave it a form that we use today.

Guru Angad Dev got the Primary learning books prepared as also the first Punjabi grammar.

All the compositions of Guru Nanak Dev were rewritten in Gurmukhi script.

By his efforts in this way, it opened the gateway for writing, printing, and publishing books of Punjabi literature.

This is a very precious contribution he made to Punjabi culture.

Guru Angad Dev perceived that a good society and future of the country depends on the children.

That is why along with putting people on the true path of 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love' and 'singing the praises of the Lord', he gave special attention to children's education, children's games and children's development programmes.

His way of preaching was very simple and unique. He used to give the children proverbs that had moral teaching, so that they could become pious citizens.

Professor Huxley, an English Professor of literature, greatly appreciated Guru Angad Dev's interest that he took for children's welfare.

A Gurdwara called 'Mal Akhara' exists where Guru Angad Dev used to see the children playing games and where he used to give them proverbs in Punjabi to improve their moral standard.

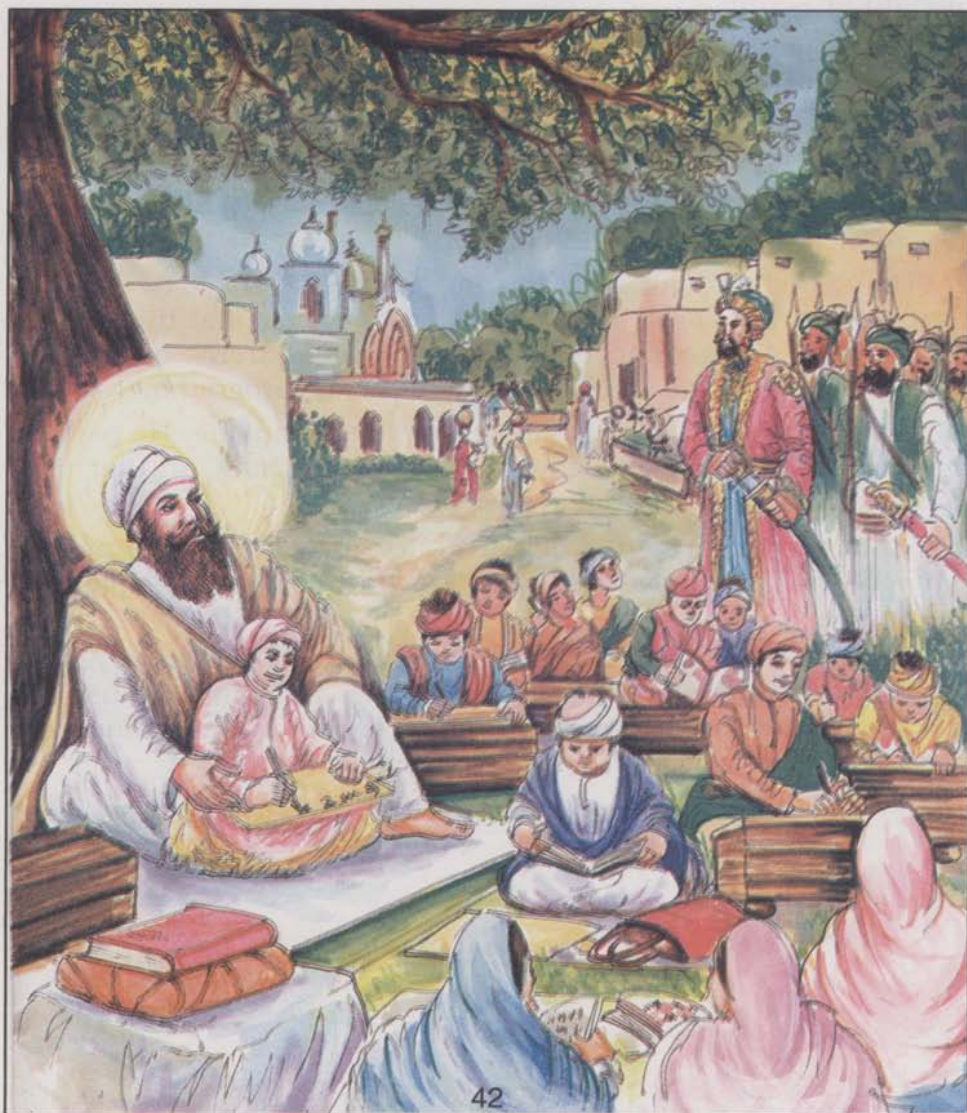
Humayun Visits Khadur

In September 1539, when Guru Angad Dev sat on the Guru-seat, the Mughal Emperor Humayun ruled India.

He was an incapable and unsuccessful Emperor.

When he lost in the battle with Sher Shah Suri and fled towards Punjab then he came to Khadur for sometime.

He wanted to have blessings from the Guru with a wish that he should get his throne back.



When he reached Khadur, the Guru was absorbed in watching the children playing and as perchance he did not notice the Emperor.

Emperor Humayun waited respectfully for a few minutes but then he became furious and he stretched his hand to take out his sword from the sheath but the sword did not stir. The non-stirring of the sword awakened his mind: Oh! What was I up to?

Now the Guru whose face blossomed like the moon looked towards the Emperor and said: Let this remain in the sheath. Let the time come. It has come tired after fighting with Sher Shah. Let it rest in the sheath. It is not righteousness for it to come out on saints.

Saying this, the Guru came forward and welcomed the Emperor and made him sit next to him.

Then the Emperor said: O man of God! I am sorry my hand went on the hilt of the sword. Forgive me. Please bless that I get back my lost kingdom. I have lost peace of mind.

The Guru said: It is the Lord's will and everything happens by the Lord's command. You will get your kingdom back but after a span of some time.

Peace of mind is in the Lord's Name. If you recite the Lord's Name, you will get peace of mind.

Then the Emperor and his courtiers bowed to the Guru and went away towards Iran.

Malloo Shah

Malloo Shah was a valiant soldier. He was in service of the Mughal army.

It came to his mind that he was in the service of the army where it is either kill or die. How could he get eternal happiness?

He came to Guru Angad Dev and said: Your Holiness: I am in the army where it is do or die. How do I get eternal happiness?

Then the Guru said: One who is in the army service, he should not be cruel or loot and grab intentionally. He should not consider killing and looting as bravery. To fight is his duty. But when there is a war he should fight for righteousness. In *Ashtguru Chamatkar* Bhai Sahib Dr. Vir Singh writes:

Guru Angad Dev told Malloo Shah, "Army life is a life of bravery. This is meant for stopping the perpetration of cruelty and brutality on civilians. This is not for being cruel one's self. It is a big sacrifice where even the body is sacrificed. The primary intention is to do goodness for others, stop evil and be helpful. A valiant soldier should not be afraid to fight for righteousness. When a valiant soldier dies in fighting righteousness, then, he gets eternal happiness."

On listening to the Guru's words he got peace of mind. He got into recitation of the Lord's Name, service to the poor and oppressed and started giving charity also.



No Honest Earning is Bad

There are three main principles in Sikh religion:

1. Recite the Lord's name with love.
2. Earn honestly.
3. Share with others.

It is considered noble to give some charity from one's honest earning.

Guru Nanak Dev had said that he who earns honestly and gives charity understands the true path of 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love' and 'singing the praises of the Lord with love'.

When Guru Nanak Dev returned from his fourth travel and settled at Kartarpur, he did farming with his own hands.

When he stayed with his sister Bibi Nanki at Sultanpur, he worked as Stores Manager.

According to what the Guru said, no honest earning is considered low or bad. Before he sat on the Guru-seat, Bhai Lehna had a shop.

Even after he sat on the Guru-seat and settled at Khadur he used to twist ropes of reed fiber to earn his living. Whatever was left after spending in the house he used to give for the Guru's kitchen.

He did not spend the offerings that came from the congregation for his house. He used to tell his sons Daatu and Daasu that money earned through hard work is a blessing and one should not feel shy in doing any work.

In *Ashtguru Chamatkar*, Bhai Sahib Dr. Vir Singh has written many stories relating to Guru Angad Dev's disciples who followed what the Guru preached and got eternal happiness.



Accept the God's will

People came from far off places to have a glimpse of the Guru and receive his blessings. One of those disciples was Bhai Jeeva. He came from Naurangabad that was at a distance of five kilometers from Khadur. He came to meet the Guru and started service in the Guru's kitchen. He used to cook a dish of rice combined with lentil for the Guru.

One day there was a strong dust-storm and the wind blew so strongly that fire could not be lit in the kitchen. He waited for the duststorm to stop but finally lost patience and said to the Guru: O benevolent Guru, I have to make rice-lentil but I am unable to light the fire. If you stop this duststorm then I might do cooking.

The Guru smiled and said: It will stop when the Lord commands it to stop. You recite the Lord's Name.

Jeeva: It is under your command also. You please stop it.

Guru: Accept the Lord's command. Like a married woman is always happy in the command of her husband. Similarly, the disciple of the Lord, when he remains happy in the Lord's command, then the Lord bestows His grace on him.

One Pandit was sitting close by. He heard all this conversation and said: O Guru, is this nature under command or does it exist on its own?

Then, the Guru said: Nature is under command. The nature having a system indicates that there is a living force that commands. It is His wonder. The feeling of wondrousness takes us to the Lord.

The endeavour is 'to recite the Lord's Name with love'.



Malooka, the Drunkard

At Khadur lived one Chaudhri whose name was Jawahar Mal but people of the town called him Chaudhri Malooka.

He did not like Guru Angad Dev being honoured so much. Many times he used to talk against the Guru in foul words. He was a habitual drunkard. Many times he fell unconscious in the streets due to drinking too much.

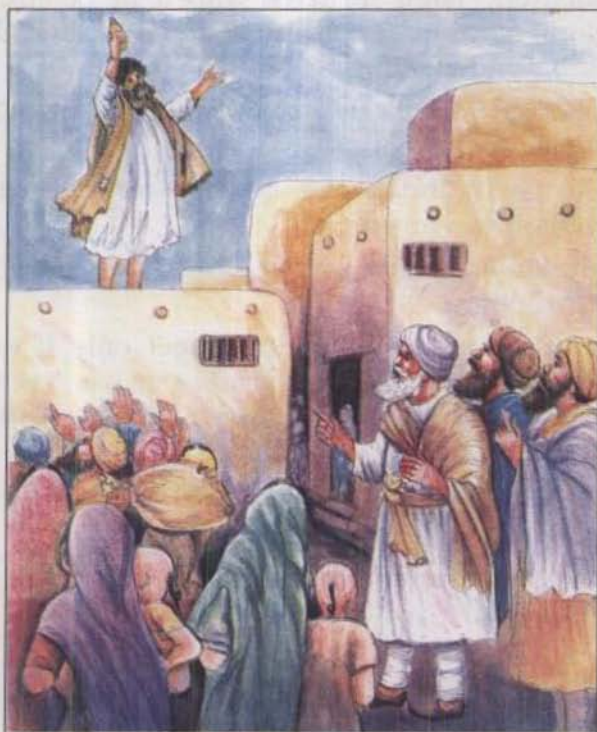
By drinking too much he became ill with epilepsy. He tried many doctors but was not cured.

Then the noble persons and relatives suggested that he should go to Guru Angad Dev and ask forgiveness and take his blessings.

In this worry and suffering, one day Malooka went to the Guru Durbar.

The Guru, bestower of forgiveness, asked him: Do you drink?

Malooka replied: Yes, it is wine that keeps me happy and life goes on nicely. Only the illness of epilepsy is worrying me.



Guru said: Recite the Lord's Name and do good deeds. If you stop drinking wine, then you could be cured of epilepsy. But if you start drinking again then it would not be cured.

Chaudhri: Well, if I stop drinking, then I am cured. All right, I promise, I stop drinking from now onwards.

Guru said: Well done Chaudhri! If you have left drinking, then, the epilepsy has also left you along with the habit of drinking.

By the blessings of the Guru Malooka was cured of his illness.

He bowed to the Guru and as promised he stopped drinking wine.

Almost two years passed like that and he did not get any fit of epilepsy.

But again a mood came to his mind to drink.

In Khadur lived a yogi who was a habitual drunkard. He was a friend of Malooka. In the company of his friend, again he got into the habit of drinking.

One day it rained and the season was beautiful. He was sitting on the top floor and drinking. He drank so much that he became intoxicated. Then he went into a fit of epilepsy and in that unconscious state he fell from the top floor and died. His bad habit of drinking ended him like this.

The Holy Scripture tells us not to drink. By drinking one goes into forgetfulness of the Lord.

We have to go to the Lord's court where we will be asked: What good deeds have you done?

What reply shall we give to the Lord if we have remained in the habit of drinking?

In the Lord's court we will get respect only if we have done good deeds in the world and the prime deed is 'recitation of the Lord's Name with love' and 'singing the praises of the Lord with love'.

Let us recite: **O Lord, O Lord, O Lord, O Lord,**
starting with at least five minutes a day.

Then we will get inner happiness in this world and will be respected in the Lord's palace.

An ascetic of Khadur

At Khadur Sahib stayed one ascetic who was quite proud and full of envy. When Guru Angad Dev ji preached the recitation of the Lord's Name as the true path, the followers of the ascetic went down.

On seeing the people's regard for Guru Angad Dev increasing day by day he became jealous. He talked ill of the Guru at all times. He was on the look out of a chance to stop people from going to the Guru Darbar.

Once it did not rain in and around Khadur for a long period. The lands of the farmers became dry. When they would go to the Guru and complain, then the Guru would say: It is in the Lord's hand. He will send rain. Sometimes He sends on time and sometimes late. It is per our deeds also. Whenever the Lord wills, He will send.

Worried over draught, some people went to the ascetic Shivnath and said: O saint, you have supernatural powers. Show some supernatural power and bring rain. At least our crops would be saved.

The ascetic was already waiting for such a chance. In anger he said: This is the result of following a family man, meaning Guru Angad Dev ji. Until you send him out of the town it cannot rain.

Now, the farmers, whose fields were becoming dry got together and again went to His Holiness, Guru Angad Dev and said: The ascetic says that if you leave Khadur Sahib and reside somewhere outside this town, then he can bring rain in our fields.

The Guru listened to their ignorance and said: If, by my going away it would rain then I could go today only.

Accordingly, the guru left Khadur Sahib and went and stayed at Khan Rajada village about seven kilometers away.

Several days passed since the Guru had left. The ascetic tried several types of rituals and a Yagna but there was no rain. What to say of rain, there was no sign of even a small cloud in the hot sky.

Now, the farmers became desperate and dragged him out and said: You said, you will call Indra, the God of rains, and he will bring rain. You said rain is in your closed palm. Now open your



palm. Why don't you? Otherwise we are going to drag and throw you out of the town.

Some said: Unnecessarily we asked the Guru to go away. He was right when he said, "It is in the Lord's hands."

In the meanwhile, the crowd saw Baba Amardas coming. They came and fell at his feet and said: O saint, you please help us out. We have insulted the Guru. Now you do something for us. Without rain, we will die.

Baba Amardas said: The Guru whom you have asked to go away, he has the power. You express your repentance and have full faith in the Guru and say

O great Guru Angad Dev

say again, O great Guru Angad Dev

say once again, O great Guru Angad Dev.

After a little while clouds could be seen. It started drizzling and then in torrents.

Now the farmers were very angry on the ascetic Shivrath. They dragged him out, beat him and threw him in the open fields where he died.

In the meanwhile Baba Amardas left for Khan Rajada village to meet Guru Angad Dev.

When Guru Angad Dev heard about the entire episode, he did not like it.

He asked Baba Amardas: Why did you show your supernatural power?

Then Baba Amardas said: I made a mistake. I could not tolerate the farmers insulting you. I thought they would realize your greatness only when they see your power. Your Holiness, you are above supernatural powers. Now I realize that I faulted. I realize my mistake.

Guru: Yes, people do bow when they see supernatural powers. But what is the gain? Prominence? It gives you delight that you are being praised. This delight is a form of ego that keeps you in the forgetfulness of the Lord. This forgetfulness of Name keeps you away from the beloved Lord. The prominence that goes with you when you leave this body is in the Lord's Name. Those who have got the Lord's Name in their heart do not show their supernatural powers. They remain immersed in the love of the beloved Lord. They drink the nectar of Name that is sweeter than anything else. One gets the Name nectar by the grace of the Guru. That gives you eternal happiness.

The Guru said: Praises of the world, burn them in fire.

These clever praises make you forget the Lord
and not one goes with you.

Service - Endeavour

It is mentioned in the Janamsakhi that Baba Amarda's stayed at Khadur Sahib for almost 12 years and served the Guru and the congregation. When he came and stayed at Khadur Sahib, he noticed that there service was considered as the prime duty. So one day he asked the kitchen supervisor Bhai Jodh to give him a pitcher for carrying water.

Then he started going to the river Beas and carried back the pitcher full of fresh water for the Guru's bath. He would wait till the Guru had his bath and then wash the Guru's wet clothes. When it was daytime he went to the Gurdwara to listen to the divine hymns. In the summer months he waived fan for the congregation. He told Bhai Jodh that he would bring water for the kitchen from the well everyday. Then he would draw water at the well and offer it to the disciples for their bath. He would serve water to thirsty. He would serve drinking water in the Guru's kitchen to the *Sangat* who came to eat. He would himself eat when all others had finished eating. In this service he got elevation of mind. At night after the assembly he would massage the Guru's feet and stand in wait till the Guru went to sleep.

A number of times his family members came and asked him to come home but he would say: The home that I looked for, I have got. Now I cannot leave this home and go anywhere.

No doubt he was elderly but he was enthusiastic like a young person. While doing all this service he always recited the Lord's Name. He remained steadfast in this service. The congregation was astonished to see his devotion, recitation of Name and service to the Guru.



Goindwal Flourishes

It was almost seven years since Guru Angad Dev ji had taken the Guru-seat. Thousands of devotees came everyday with desires and were blessed with the Lord's Name by the Guru.

In the year 1546 one Marwaha Khatri named 'Gonda' came to the Guru-darbar and said: Your Holiness, my ancestors have left a lot of land near the bank of river Beas and I want to develop it as a town but some people who are jealous are creating hindrances. I am told that ghosts and evil spirits live there. Whatever we construct in the day, we find it demolished the next morning.



I pray you bless that the hindrances go away and I make it a town.

The Guru made Bhai Gonda understand that no evil spirits or ghosts existed. It is all a mistaken belief of weak minds. We do not have such beliefs.

But let Baba Amardas come. By his blessings your town will flourish.

After a few days when Baba Amardas came to meet Guru Angad Dev then the Guru said: O dear, I know you are not happy to stay at a distance from here. But staying here might create problems for you. The Lord has created something between staying at a distance and staying close. That is staying near. The idea is that you may stay near so that it becomes easy to come and go and meet.

In another couple of days Bhai Gonda came again and said: Please send Baba Amardas with me as you had told me earlier.

Guru Angad Dev asked Baba Amardas to go along with Bhai Gonda. He also gave his stick to Baba Amardas and said: Draw lines with this stick all over the place and select a site for yourself towards the east. The town would flourish.

Many more people accompanied Baba Amardas so that they would also settle there because the place was near to Khadur. Marwaha Khatri collected masons and labourers and arranged all building materials like bricks, sand, lime mortar, etc.

Within a few months the town came up near the bank of river Beas and was named Goindwal Sahib.

Bhai Gonda Khatri got a beautiful house constructed for Baba Amardas. Guru Angad Dev asked Baba Amardas to call his family members from Basarke and settle in this new township. He also asked many other disciples to go and settle at Goindwal Sahib.

When Baba Amardas sat on the Guru-seat Goindwal Sahib became a big centre for spread of the Lord's Name to the people.

Refuge for refugeless

One day it rained in torrents. At night the rain stopped but black clouds hovered and it was dark. It was time for the Guru's bath. Baba Amardas as per his daily routine carried a pitcher full of water from the river Beas and was slowly walking back. It was too dark and nothing was visible. In that darkness his foot struck against a peg fixed in the ground by a weaver and he fell down. However he saved the pitcher of water from falling.

On hearing the sound, the weaver woke up from sleep and asked his wife: What is this sound about?

His wife said: What sound? He must have fallen, that 'one having nowhere to go' Amroo. He passes carrying water at this time. You do not worry. Surely he is the 'one having nowhere to go' Amroo.



Baba Amardas overheard all the conversation. In honour of the Guru, his tongue uttered: O mad lady, whose place is the Guru of the heaven and earth, how do you call him Amroo 'one having nowhere to go'?

Saying this, he picked up the pitcher of water and walked back for the Guru's bath.

What happened now?

Baba Amardas had said those words to the lady casually but there was so much strength in his words that the lady became mad instantly. She broke the utensils in the house and spoke like a mentally deranged person.

Next morning the weaver brought his wife along to Guru Angad Dev and narrated truly what had happened. With folded hands he begged pardon for the words she said for Baba Amardas.

The Guru said: Your wife has not done good to say such words for Baba Amardas, still she is forgiven. Now you go. She will be all right.

Now Guru Angad Dev looked towards Baba Amardas with lavish graciousness and said:

You are the pride of the foregoers of their own strength.

You are the refuge for those 'having nowhere to go'.

You are the honour for the humble.

You are the shelter for the shelterless.

You are the support for the supportless.

Again, he looked towards Baba Amardas, yes, he looked at him with eyes that rained graciousness and said:

O dear, you are a giver of life to the lifeless.

You are the giver of nourishment to all.

O dear, you are great.

Guru Amar Das as image of Guru Angad Dev

The month of March was ending. Baisakh month was at the door. Guru Angad Dev got ready to heaven journey. When the disciples came to know about this, they became restless. Disciples from far and near started pouring in to have a last glimpse of the beloved Guru.

Baba Amardas had been serving the Guru for the last twelve years. Guru Angad Dev had already decided that Baba Amardas only could take up the responsibility of the Guruship. He should sit on the Guru-seat. His sons Daasu and Daatu however, opposed the idea saying: When the sons are the legal heirs, how could the Guru-seat be given to Baba Amardas? Then mother Mata Kheevi explained to both the sons that the Guruship is a very big responsibility that you would not be able to take on your shoulders. The sons asked: What is the deficiency in us?

Then Mata Kheevi said: The deficiency is devotion to the Lord. You consider your father as Guru and immerse yourself in the love of the Lord. Then you will understand that what the Guru has decided is the right thing. Don't you remember what Guru Nanak told Mata Sulakhni in a similar situation? He said: It is in nobody's hand. It is in the hands of the Lord.



But the sons were not satisfied. A few days before Basant Panchmi, the Guru said to Baba Buddha: Let there be an assembly on Basant Panchmi day. Call the Guru Nanak disciples, family people of Baba Amardas other relations and disciples. Baba Buddha said: Yes.

Accordingly on the fixed day everybody assembled. Then the Guru looked towards Baba Amardas and said :

O dear, Amardas beloved. You sit on my seat and preach the Lord's Name. All the supernatural powers are under you.

Baba Amardas said: These powers should remain with you and I should remain at your service. Then the Guru said: It is the Lord's command that you take the responsibility of Guru Nanak Dev now. Put the people on the path of 'recitation of the Lords Name with love'.

Saying this he got up. He placed five paise and a coconut in front of Baba Amardas, walked in a circle around him, then held him with his hands and made him sit on the Guru-seat with love. Then Baba Buddha got up and put the saffron mark on Guru Amardas's forehead and fell at his feet. Then other disciples fell at Guru Amardas's feet. The musicians sang divine songs and sacred sweet was served.

In this way the ceremony ended. After this Guru Angad Dev told Guru Amardas to go to Goindwal Sahib and preach the Lord's Name from there. After a few days Guru Angad Dev said: I have to abide heaven's journey. Everybody became sad.

Message went to Guru Amardas at Goindwal Sahib and he rushed to Khadur. Guru Angad Dev said: O dear! Now you have to spread the Lord's Name. Guru Nanak Dev gave me the command. Now I am giving it to you. Put the people on the true path of the Lord's Name and allay the suffering of the people for which the Lord sent Guru Nanak Dev to this earth. O dear, don't become sad. I have to go and you have to live.

Recite the Lord's Name and sing the praises of the Lord. Then he spread a white sheet on his body and lay down on his seat only. His soul left the body and got immersed in the Supreme Soul. It was in Samat 1609. Guru Angad Dev sat on Guru-seat for twelve years & six months and spread the Lord's Name among the people.

Sacred Memorials of Guru Angad Dev

Guru Angad Dev's prominent memorials include his birthplace Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Gurdwara Angeetha Sahib, Gurdwara Mai Virae, Gurdwara Khan Rajada, Gurdwara Hari-ke-Patan, Gurdwara Mal Akhara, Gurdwara Tapayana Sahib and Dehora Guru Angad Dev.

Most of the memorials of Guru Angad Dev are at Khadur Sahib. This town exists at a distance of 20 kilometers from Tarn Taran towards the east. Guru Angad Dev after sitting on the Guru-seat settled here permanently. The most important memorial is Gurdwara Darbar Sahib (Angeetha Sahib).

This was the Guru's residence and the Guru's Darbar. This Gurdwara is also called Khaddi Sahib. In the inner path of Darbar Sahib a piece of the peg is kept with which Guru Amardas's foot got stuck and he fell down. Here in the year 1552 Guru Angad Dev left his earthly body and went to the heaven.

Tapayana Sahib (Place of meditation): This place is about one kilometer north of Khadur outside the town. This is the place where he used to sit and meditate for long hours.

A water tank (*sarovar*) close to the Gurdwara is about 90 meters in length and breadth. On the bank of the tank (*sarovar*) stands the memorial where Bhai Bala died. It is said that Guru Angad Dev sat here and asked Bhai Bala to write the biography of Guru Nanak Dev. When Guru Nanak Dev visited Khadur, then he stayed here for sometime. Samaadh of Bhai Bala is also here.

Gurdwara Mal Akhara: This Gurdwara is situated towards north of the town. Here Guru Angad Dev used to come and see children doing exercises and playing games.

He used to teach them Punjabi in Gurmukhi script. Emperor Humayun after loosing to Sher Shah Suri in the battles of Bilgram and Chausa met him here and sought blessings from Guru Angad Dev.

Gurdwara Mai Bhirae (Mai Virae): This Gurdwara exists in the crowded locality of the town and is about 100 meters from Gurdwara Darbar Sahib towards the west side. Mai Virae was

like a sister to Guru Angad Dev's father Baba Pharu Mal. Mai Virae was the daughter of Takht Mal of Serai Naga and she was married to Chaudhri Mehma of Sanghar near Khadur.

Guru Angad Dev's father Baba Pharu Mal worked as an accountant for Takht Mal for a long period. That is why Mai Virae was like a sister to him. When Guru Nanak Dev left for heavens, then Guru Angad Dev came to Khadur and stayed in hiding at Mai Virae's house for a long time.

Now a beautiful Gurdwara exists at this place. Some Gurdwaras in memory of Guru Angad Dev exist outside Khadur Sahib also.

One such Gurdwara exists at Sarai Naga (old name Mate-di-serai), birthplace of Guru Angad Dev: This place is 10 kilometers from Muktsar towards northeast on Muktsar-Kotkapura Road. The old name was Mate-di-Sarai. It was invaded and destroyed by the Mughals. Now the new name is Sarai Naga.

Here Guru Angad Dev was born to Baba Pharu Mal and Mata Daya Kaur in the year 1504. The new Gurdwara is about one kilometer away from the city eastwards.

Gurdwara Khan Rajada: Due to envy of an ascetic and prompted by him people requested Guru Angad Dev to leave the city.

Then he left and stayed at Khan Rajada.

The local people there constructed a hut for the Guru to stay. This city is 8 kilometers from Goindwal town towards the west. A beautiful Gurdwara exists here in the memory of Guru Angad Dev. One more memorial of Guru Angad Dev is at Bharowal. While going back from Khan Rajada to Khadur the Guru stayed here.